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englisch

‘... and immediately she straightened up...’

(Luke 13:13)

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Straighten up!

Dear friends for go4peace,

Something serious had happened in her life. Now it was lying on her soul like a heavy weight. It was weighing her down so much that she struggled to walk upright. She had not shared it with anyone. She was dragging herself through life on her own. Her body was bent; she'd not been able to walk upright for 18 years now. Her gaze was fixed on the floor. She couldn't see anyone, and no one was looking at her.

She'd come across Jesus by chance. When he saw her, he didn't show any sign of hesitation, on the contrary, he looked at her immediately and asked her over. His gaze was neither judgemental nor resentful. Under his loving gaze she sensed: Everything that happened is allowed. This gaze didn't 'put you straight', it straightened you up. She hears Jesus say "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity" and then she can feel his hands on her head. She hadn't experienced such gentle nearness for two decades and what hadn't been possible for many years is suddenly possible. She stands up straight!

We were about to take our first steps into war torn Bosnia. Together with a young woman and a young man I set off on this adventure. We had a lot of time to talk on our journey. When we arrived, we were utterly speechless at the sight of completely destroyed villages. People were sitting in front of ruined buildings. We didn't know where to start! "Love can only manifest itself through love" I said. Let us begin where the suffering is greatest. The adventure of go4peace had begun. At the end of the year, I received a short message from the young woman. "Thanks for our time in Bosnia. Before this experience I was in a dark place. Now I have chosen life once again!" I understood how fragile her thread of hope must have been. Her commitment for others had given her new courage! – **Straighten up!**

for the go4peaceTeam

Meinolf Wacker